

over the next few years, Fort Hood-Killeen Joint-Use Airport in honor of this great veteran and community leader.

Ted Connell fought for his Nation, Mr. Speaker, in time of war, and served his community and country in time of peace. His indomitable optimism and love of country were quintessential American values. He represented the special spirit that makes me optimistic about our Nation's future.

As a businessman and community leader, Ted Connell worked tirelessly for jobs, prosperity, and opportunities for central Texans. His unparalleled record of public service and his enduring legacy to his community are matched only by his countless quiet acts of caring for those in need.

All those who knew or were the beneficiaries of Ted Connell and his humanity were enriched by his life and are diminished by his passing. Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." By that high measure, Ted Connell's life was a true success.

Mr. Speaker, if I could just finish with one story, at Ted Connell's funeral recently in Killeen, Texas, a friend of his, Gaylen Christy, told the story, in the last 2 years where he and Mr. Connell were sitting in a coffee shop, but this time Ted was a patient of chemotherapy.

Rather than worrying about his own concerns, he heard a middle-aged couple at a table nearby talking about their problems. Their son had just been assigned to Fort Hood, but recently thereafter was asked to go to serve his Nation in Bosnia as a helicopter mechanic.

Their problem was they did not know how to get their son's belongings to the airport in Austin to be freighted back to Pennsylvania to their home, and then to get their son's car back. Mr. Connell, having heard their concern over their son's matters, walked over to their table, gave them a card, and said, come talk to me at my car dealership and we will take care of your problem.

He proceeded to provide a driver and a car to take that son's belongings to Austin, Texas, and then provided a driver to drive their son's car back to Pennsylvania, and paid for that driver to fly back to Texas. When Mr. Connell made this offer to this great family, they responded to him by saying, "Sir, we don't know how we can pay you back." Ted Connell's answer was, "You have already paid me back by raising a son who was willing to serve his Nation in uniform."

That was the man, Ted Connell. Our Nation will forever remember and be better for his spirit and public service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. KELLY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA'S RESPONSE TO THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, Sunday was an important day in the United States as we come to terms with the senseless terrorist attacks of September 11. In a brief mourning ceremony at Camp David, President Bush watched as the U.S. flag was hoisted to a full staff for the first time in 12 days.

Later that afternoon, thousands of mourners gathered at Yankee Stadium in New York for a multi-faith event to remember their loved ones and all those lost in the terrorist attacks.

Our collective grief and confusion during the last 2 weeks have not waned and will likely remain with us for years. However, Sunday's two events remind all Americans of the strong foundation on which this Nation is built, and of the need to defend our citizens and principles from future threats.

Paramount among America's concerns following the attacks was the realization that terror could strike on our own soil. However, we cannot live in constant fear and hand a victory to the terrorists, so it is incumbent upon Congress to restore faith in national security. We need immediate action to enhance safety in airports and on planes by improving passenger and baggage screening procedures, strengthening airplane security features, and installing sky marshals on flights.

Additionally, we must identify other vulnerabilities in our infrastructure, and work to safeguard food and water supplies, financial institutions, electricity grids, energy production facilities, and transportation and communications networks.

Once we have improved any shortcomings in our infrastructure, we can enact fundamental reforms such as ensuring police departments, firefighters, rescue workers, health care systems, and local governments are prepared in the event of biological or chemical attacks.

The Rhode Island Disaster Initiative has served as a pioneer in developing a model disaster plan for every State in the Nation. I am proud of this initiative, and hope that it will play an integral role in developing national solutions to problems revealed on September 11.

Also, an investment in mental health services, whose importance is often overlooked in times of tragedies, would help Americans, especially children, deal with the trauma of witnessing violence and terrorism around the globe.

All of these efforts must be pursued in conjunction with a careful, coordinated counterterrorism program. The new Office of Homeland Security is an essential step towards preventing terrorism, and Congress must provide this office with the authority it needs to be effective.

By consolidating existing responsibilities from the 40 different agencies managing terrorism prevention, and by establishing information-sharing procedures with the FBI and CIA, the Office of Homeland Security can safeguard our lands, citizens, and facilities from future threats.

I also look forward to working with the administration on its request for increased authority to combat terrorism. As terrorists gain access to new technology, our law enforcement offices must be equipped to intercept and analyze these communications.

However, in our rush to action, any new authority Congress grants must be consistent with the civil liberties guaranteed in the Constitution and upheld by the courts.

Furthermore, we must focus on the true perpetrators of terrorist crimes, and condemn the unfounded targeting or harassment of innocent Americans because of their skin color, customs, or beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, we are just beginning to fathom the implications of the September 11 attacks. Yet, we may take comfort that our Nation's principles are still intact. The valiant and selfless efforts of emergency responders are to be commended. The generosity of those who have donated to relief efforts and the multifaith ceremony at Yankee Stadium all demonstrate that Americans of all backgrounds join in condemnation of terrorism.

For many years to come, when we look at our flag proudly waving at full staff, we will remember the victims of September 11, but we will also be reminded of the principles that make the United States a great Nation, and which we must always strive to preserve.

INTRODUCING H.R. 2953, LEGISLATION TO EXTEND SOCIAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS AND MAKE THEM PART OF MEDICARE+CHOICE PLANS PERMANENTLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced H.R. 2953, which is legislation to extend and make social health maintenance organizations a permanent part of Medicare+Choice. It is an important benefit option helping seniors maintain a healthy lifestyle longer in their own homes. As such, it represents a fiscally sound approach to managing our long-term health care needs in this country, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I am fortunate to represent one of the four social HMOs that were approved as part of the initial Medicare demonstration project in 1985. This effort, called the Seniors Care Action Network, or SCAN, provides coordinated personal and health care to more